

Minnesota



2017

ATSDR's partner, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) worked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the St. Paul Public School District to rapidly plan and conduct a soil vapor investigation at Crossroads Elementary School. MDH provided assistance with communications about the investigation and a site-specific information sheet in anticipation of the need to inform staff and families of findings. MPCA consulted with MDH throughout subsequent indoor air sampling, and both agencies worked with the school district and school administration to hold a community meeting to describe sub-slab and indoor air results, mitigation and remediation measures, and answer any questions about health risks.

As a result of this collaboration, an investigation of vapor intrusion was carried out quickly, and this led to the rapid installation of a sub-slab mitigation system in the school. The school chose to delay the opening of the school by two days to allow for post-mitigation confirmation testing to provide empirical evidence to assure safety of indoor air. Coordination of clear and consistent messaging by all parties provided the community with timely and understandable information. The school was very grateful for the support and collaboration by MDH and the MPCA, and community members who attended the community meeting expressed satisfaction with how the issue was handled and how they were given information that they wanted to know.